WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5   1.   A method for acquiring data related to television programming comprising the steps of:

receiving from a first television signal source a television signal capable of incorporating embedded data relating to television programming;

determining if data related to television programming is embedded in the television signal

10   from the first source;

if data related to television programming is embedded in the television signal from the first source, storing at least a portion of the embedded data in an electronic memory, the stored portion including a first guide identifier;

receiving from a second signal source a television signal capable of incorporating

15   embedded data relating to television programming;

determining if data related to television programming is embedded in the television signal from the second source;

if data related to television programming is embedded in the television signal from the second source, storing at least a portion of the embedded data in the electronic memory, the

20   stored portion including a second guide identifier;

compiling a list of one or more guides from the stored guide identifiers;

displaying the list of the guides for viewer selection;

selecting a guide for future reception; and

storing the guide identifier for the selected guide.

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2.   The method of claim 15 further comprising the steps of:

receiving from a third television signal source a television signal capable of incorporating embedded data relating to television programming;

determining if data to television programming is embedded in the television signal from

30   the third source; and

if data related to television programming is embedded in the television signal from the second source, storing at least a portion of the embedded data in the electronic memory, the stored portion including a third guide identifier.

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3.   The method of claim 1 wherein the stored portion of embedded data comprises a sample guide.

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4.   The method of claim 1 wherein the stored portion of embedded data comprises a guide identifier and data relating to guide information reception and the method further comprises storing the reception data for the selected guide.

10   5.   A method for acquiring data related to television programming comprising the steps of:

receiving from a first television signal source data related to a first television program schedule guide;

storing at least a portion of the data related to the first television program schedule guide in memory, the stored portion including a first guide identifier;

receiving from a second television signal source data related to a second television program schedule guide;

storing at least a portion of the data related to the second television program schedule guide in memory, the stored portion including a second guide identifier;

displaying the first and second guide identifiers on a display;

receiving a viewer selection of one of the displayed guide identifiers; and

storing reception information for the selected guide identifier, the reception information allowing future reception of an associated television program schedule guide.

25   6.   The method of claim 5, wherein the stored portion of the data related to the first and second television program schedule guides includes a sample of the first and second television program schedule guides.

7.   A television apparatus receiving television signals from a plurality of television 30   signal sources comprising:

a first input receiving from a first television signal source data related to a first television program schedule guide;

a second input receiving from second television signal source data related to a second television program schedule guide;

35   a memory;

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a display; and

a processor coupled to the memory and display, the processor including logic for:

storing at least a portion of the data related to the first television program schedule guide in the memory, the stored portion including a first guide identifier;

storing at least a portion of the data related to the second television program schedule guide in the memory, the stored portion including a second guide identifier;

displaying the first and second guide identifiers on the display;

receiving a viewer selection of one of the displayed guide identifiers; and

storing reception information for the selected guide identifier, the reception information allowing future reception of an associated television program schedule guide.

8.   The television apparatus of claim 7, wherein the stored portion of the data related to the first and second television program schedule guides includes a sample of the first and second television program schedule guides.

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